

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2011/04/13 :
CIA-RDP81-00280R000200080008-0

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

COUNTRY
Hungary/USSR

SUBJECT
New Uranium Excavation Pits Near Pecs

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NO. OF PAGES

NO. OF ENCLS.

1

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT # 50X1-HUM

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. New uranium excavation pits have been opened in the vicinity of Pecs. The importance of the Pecs coal mining district was increased in 1955 when valuable uranium deposits were discovered there in the area about eight kilometers north-west of the Pecs-Szentlőrinc highway. 50X1-HUM

2. [redacted] the ore content of this area is higher than that in Zirc where traces of uranium were discovered during the construction of a branch railway to the Dudar coal mine. Another rather poor uranium ore deposit, in limited quantity for exploitation, has been found near Velence (there are two places with this name in Hungary: one near Szekesfehervar and the second near Zalaegerszeg).

3. For the time being, only the Pecs area is being excavated. Pits are being dug in two fields:
 - a. On the slopes of hills situated between Kovagoszolos and Tottos villages
 - b. On hill "215" south of Cserkut village

[redacted] the second field is much the more valuable of the two. 50X1-HUM

4. At least 600 miners and workers are now employed in the uranium excavations, which according to the Hungarian-Soviet agreement are under complete control of the Soviets. Only some laboratory work is being carried on by the Bio-Physical Institute of Pecs University under Professor Jenő Erns, a leading nuclear expert.
5. Under a 1955 Hungarian-Soviet agreement, the USSR has received a 25-year concession for the searching and exploitation of uranium deposits on all Hungarian territory. After this period all rights and installations will be transferred to Hungary.
6. The uranium ore is not processed in Hungary but is transported from Pecs to a Soviet processing installation in CSR.

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